

# 551.506 (261.1) WEATHER OF NORTH AMERICA AND ADJACENT OCEANS NORTH ATLANTIC OCEAN

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Considering the ocean as a whole, the number of days on which winds of gale force occurred was considerably below the normal as shown on the Pilot Chart for July. An unusually severe tropical disturbance, which is described elsewhere in the REVIEW, prevailed during the latter part of the month. Storms of extra-tropical origin, however, were rare, and over the steamer lanes gales were not reported on more than one day in any 5° square.

Fog was again unusually prevalent, and in the region between the 40th and 45th parallels, west of the 50th meridian, it was reported on from 14 to 25 days. The number of days on which it was observed was also above the normal over the eastern section of the steamer lanes, and off the European coast.

TABLE 1.—Averages, departures, and extremes of atmospheric pressure at sea level, 8 a. m. (75th meridian time), North Atlantic Ocean, July, 1926

Station	Average pressure	Departure <sup>1</sup>	Highest	Date	Lowest	Date
	<i>Inches</i>	<i>Inch</i>	<i>Inches</i>		<i>Inches</i>	
Julianehaab, Greenland	29.56	( <sup>2</sup> )	30.00	2d	29.06	27th.
St. Johns, Newfoundland	29.84	-0.14	30.18	30th	29.46	9th.
Nantucket	29.98	0.00	30.24	26th	29.62	7th.
Hatteras	30.00	-0.02	30.24	17th	29.78	11th.
Key West	29.99	-0.02	30.12	20th	29.80	27th.
Swan Island	29.88	-0.04	29.99	29th	29.80	30th.
New Orleans	29.98	-0.02	30.14	21st	29.84	31st.
Turks Island	30.05	+0.04	30.16	20th	29.88	25th.
Bermuda	30.20	+0.09	30.30	17th	30.06	8th.
Horta, Azores	30.25	-0.02	30.44	20th	29.90	12th. <sup>4</sup>
Lerwick, Shetland Islands	29.98	+0.20	30.44	3d	29.45	21st. <sup>4</sup>
Valencia, Ireland	30.06	+0.08	30.48	27th	29.76	18th.
London	30.03	+0.05	30.38	31st	29.68	19th.

<sup>1</sup> From normals shown on H. O. Pilot Chart, based on observations at Greenwich mean noon, or 7 a. m., 75th meridian.

<sup>2</sup> Mean of 23 observations; eight days missing.

<sup>3</sup> No normal established.

<sup>4</sup> And on other dates.

From the 1st to 5th an area of low pressure covered the greater part of Newfoundland, accompanied by light to moderate winds until the 4th, while on the 5th moderate southwesterly gales prevailed in the southeasterly quadrant. This low moved rapidly eastward, increasing in intensity, and on the 6th was central near 47° N., 37°

W., and westerly winds, force 11, were reported by vessels between the 40th and 45th parallels, and the 35th and 40th meridians. It moved but little during the next 48 hours, and gradually filled in, although on the 7th and 8th moderate gales still prevailed near the center.

On the 9th St. Johns, Newfoundland, was near the center of a low that moved steadily eastward, and on the 15th was apparently in the vicinity of Iceland, although it was impossible to plot its track accurately, due to lack of observations. On the 11th moderate gales were reported by vessels near 40° N., 55° W., and also near 45° N., 35° W.

From the 14th to 22d favorable weather was the rule over the entire ocean, and no report of gales occurring during this period has been received, although from the 16th to 22d there was an area of low pressure near the south coast of Iceland, and from the 20th to 22d a slight depression in the vicinity of Newfoundland and Labrador.

From the 19th to 23d the North Atlantic high was unusually well developed, with a maximum barometer reading of 30.44 inches at Horta, on the 20th.

Charts VIII-XI cover the period from the 25th to 28th, inclusive, and give an idea of the intensity and track of the tropical disturbance described elsewhere.

On the 25th there was a depression over the North Sea, where northwesterly gales prevailed. On the 26th a low central near 53° N., 40° W., was accompanied by moderate southerly gales in the easterly quadrants.

On the 31st a disturbance was central near 47° N., 25° W., with steep pressure gradients extending eastward and southward, while moderate gales prevailed over a limited area near the center.

The American steamship *Thomas H. Wheeler*, Capt. F. S. McKenzie, from Sabine Pass toward Cape Henry, encountered a waterspout, as shown by the following note furnished by Mr. C. Dwyer, second officer:

Waterspout, July 31. Lat. 24° 55' N., Long. 83° 54' W., at 3 p. m. passed waterspout extending down from only Cu.-Nb. cloud in sight. The water immediately below 'spout was violently agitated in a circular movement clockwise, and for a radius of about 400 yards the water ruffled by the wind in a large circle. The 'spout was of a light gray color and swayed and pulsated like a hose under pressure, not reaching the surface, but lengthened and shortened three times before dissipating twenty minutes later in a heavy rain squall. The sea was smooth, with no wind, bar. 30.02, temp. air, 88°, water 84°. The waterspout was stationary, and on the outskirts of the wind area rain was falling in large drops.